MONTEREY NEWS

August 2015

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The Town

By Jacob Edelman

Notes on select board meetings from June 29 through July 20.

Police Business

As generally happens with the season, there have been numerous complaints of late about speeding in town. Multiple residents have recently come to select board meetings to comment on the issue. Tyringham Road resident Josh Allentuck reported at the July 6 board meeting that there is always a lot of pedestrian traffic over Tyringham Road, starting from the Hupi Road intersection and continuing past the beach all the way into the center of town. He commented that "it becomes a thruway" with people barreling down the road into town without taking speed and safety precautions for foot traffic. Allentuck raised the point that Monterey has two radar speed-reading signs, and asked why they are not both in constant use.

Chief Backhaus attended the July 13 select board meetings to talk about the speeding issues. He commented that policing speeders is a no-win situation wherein if the police pull people over more frequently for speeding there are complaints, and if there isn't enough traffic enforcement there are also complaints. Backhaus continued that generally the police don't stop cars unless they're approaching ten miles per hour over the speed limit, but that the department has a far lower tolerance for speeding in the center of town. Highlighting the effectiveness of the mounted, permanent speed reading signs like the one near the Monterey school, the board gave the police the go-ahead to pursue funding for more permanent signs. Select board chairman Scott Jenssen said, "I'd rather have people complain about getting ticketed for going 50 in a 35 than have people complain that their neighbor got run down."

Chief Backhaus also attended the July 20 meeting to discuss with the select board an incident that occurred over the July 18 weekend. A student ran away from the Eagleton School in Great Barrington, and the Great Barrington police were notified within a short time period to begin a search. Only after the search had commenced did the Monterey police receive word that there was a missing person from the school, which is located just over the town border. Helicopters, officers, and search dogs helped search for the missing student. He was eventually found. Backhaus had also utilized the reverse 911 system to apprise town residents of the situation.

Attendee Rick Mielke commented at the meeting that residents might "have a tendency to react differently if we know that there could be someone hiding in a basement or a barn." Backhaus had expressed his intent earlier in the meeting to talk to the Great Barrington police and request that the Monterey police force be immediately notified in the event of another incident or runaway student. Backhaus also remarked, "It's a safety issue along with a general concern for residents and the kid himself. If more people are involved and know what is happening, the sooner someone can be found."

Stephen Moore

On Wednesday, July 8, the bridge rental company truck showed up at the New Marlboro Road bridge site at 7 a.m. as promised. This picture was taken ten minutes later with the bridge almost unloaded. By the end of Thursday the highway department had built gravel ramps with asphalt tops, put in barriers, and placed signage. And a sigh of relief went up from all the folks who depend on that bridge.

Cash or Credit?

The town of Monterey is still pursuing an option to use credit card readers for the collection of small town fees at locations such as the transfer station and town hall. Josh Allentuck commented at the July 6 select board meeting that it would be silly to lose half of a charge to a transaction fee, as proposed by one credit card reading company, who would have charged $2.50 per swipe, even with a $5 charge.

After researching credit card payment options, select board member Steven Weisz had concluded by the June 29 board meeting that the easiest way to collect payments in the town would be through a company similar to Square Inc. The company would send the town a small credit card reader that plugs into a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet. Payments are collected, and the company retains a service percentage of 2.75%. According to the minutes of the July 29 meeting, a credit card reading system should be set up by August 1.

The School

School representative Maria Rundle appeared at the June 29 select board meeting to discuss the Monterey School. The Monterey School teacher and students have transferred to the Mill River Elementary School, and the district is looking to discontinue the Monterey kindergarten program for one year while investigating the possibility of putting an early childhood program into the Monterey School. Monterey, however, does not have a teacher with which to operate such a program. There are three Monterey children who cannot attend the Mill River school. While the district is attempting to work out a solution, there is no foreseeable way those children could attend the Monterey school by themselves. Select board member Kenn Basler concurred, saying that keeping the school open for a three-student school year could not be justified. During two meetings after the June 29 meeting, the select board entered executive session to discuss legal strategy pertaining to the school.

Please see page 4 for an important statement from the select board concerning the future of the school.

The New Marlboro Road Bridge

On July 8, a folding temporary bridge was installed on New Marlboro Road (See photo on page 1). Up to four engineering companies are to submit proposals to build a new bridge. It was stated at the July 6 select board meeting that the temporary bridge is slated to stay for three months before it is removed and work is started on the new bridge. At the July 20 select board meeting, Kenn Basler said that the town plans to purchase the temporary bridge at a cost of approximately $26,000 for a potential other use.

The most cost-effective way to build a new bridge is to do it without touching the water below, since that requires the Army Corps of Engineers to be involved. Going with the most accurate estimates available as of now, a new bridge could be built for $110,000–$120,000—far lower than the $900,000 originally estimated by one engineer.

Stephen Moore

Within half an hour the bridge was down flat, aligned, and the center plates were being placed.

The Lake

Water milfoil is a recurring problem in Lake Garfield. The small area discovered in the lake last year has now grown into an area five times larger, and there were concerns raised at the July 6 select board meeting that there is too much milfoil growing. The area is too large to be dredged, so alternative options to combat the species, including a chemical, are being considered.

Steven Weisz, who is a lakeside resident, pointed out at the July 6 meeting that the expenses of maintaining Lake Garfield are starting to overwhelm the town, and that perhaps at some point a mutual association should be organized like the one that exists around Lake Buel to raise the necessary lake maintenance finances. Friends of Lake Garfield, an opt-in association, is not going to be able to bring in enough cash, according to Weisz, maybe it is time to begin a discussion about creating an association for the more than one hundred properties that abut the lake to be able.

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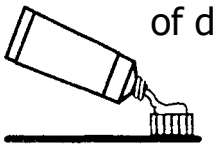

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Saturday Hours

As was suggested in the Town Hall Structure Advisory Committee report (see page 8) the select board has slowly begun to have a member sit in the town hall for two hours (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) on Saturday mornings to create a more accessible government. The report offered that if a select board member were able to available at town hall, this could allow residents to more easily access select board members, purchase transfer station stickers, and receive other general points of information. Board member Steven Weisz took the first 'shift' on July 18 and reported selling five stickers and consulting with a resident about a town issue. Time will tell if this becomes a continuing practice.

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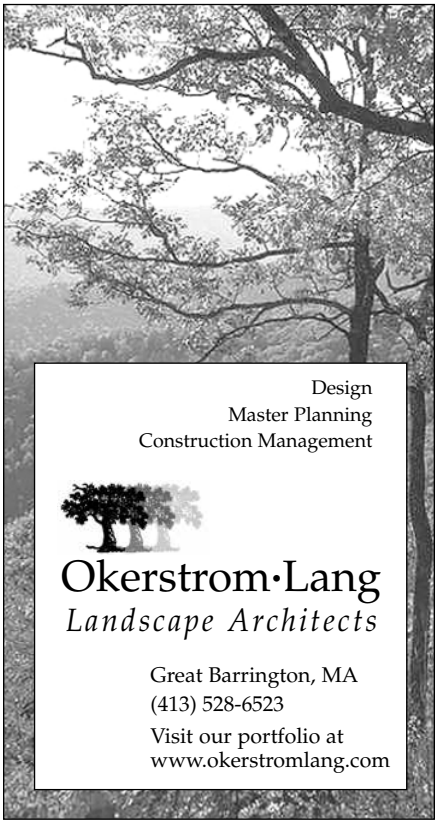
Ray Coddington

A surprise intruder greeted Ray Coddington in his barn in July.



Rob Hoogs

Bidwell House Museum had a sterling Sunday afternoon for their annual Township No. 1 Day event. For more pictures, see page 20 and 21.

Conservation Commission Needs New Members

The conservation commission performs a valuable and vital function for the town of Monterey by protecting the wetland areas of our town. Chris Blair, a longtime member of the commission and its chair in recent years, has resigned. Tim Lovett, another longtime member, has given notice that he will resign soon as well.

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services, including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

The Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act, passed in 1957, authorized each town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation. Permitting for any development project begins with the conservation commission.

The conservation commission is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy on the commission for a three-year term. The commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to admin@montereyma.gov or by regular mail to Monterey Conservation Commission, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

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The Monterey School
What is happening?

There are many stories and rumors circulating about the Monterey School and the Monterey School Program. The Select Board wishes for everyone to have the facts, so here they are—

The Facts

Last month, members of the Monterey Select Board, together with our school representative Maria Rundle, met with representatives of the board of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD). During that meeting, we were informed that our teacher would be teaching at the New Marlboro School for the 2015–2016 school year. We were also told that the current number of Monterey children enrolled in our school had dwindled to three.

There was considerable discussion about the options that Monterey has and just who or what was to blame for the predicament that we were in. We will save that discussion for another day. What we can tell you is that with three students and no teacher, the Monterey Select Board was faced with two options: 1. Close the school and cancel the program, or 2. Provide the district with an "alternative agreement" that everyone could live with (option #2 came from the superintendant himself).

The select board and our school representative discussed the issue at length and agreed on the following points;

- Our school building has deteriorated, due to the lack of promised maintenance by the SBRSD.
- Our school program has dwindled because of too few local children and a lack of focus from the Early Childhood Development Committee at the SBRSD.
- Too little time exists to get a new teacher in place for the upcoming school year.

An agreement was drafted and signed by the select board to address these points. It demanded that the SBRSD do the following:

- Affirm that the school has deteriorated to the point that it needs major repairs.
- Pledge to provide monies for the restoration of the building, as a dollar-for-dollar match (Monterey currently approved $10,000. Therefore, the SBRSD will match any and all monies spent, dollar-for-dollar).
- Agree that the program suffers from lack of students, and promise to refocus the Early Childhood Development Committee on ways to increase enrollment and use the school more effectively.
- Commit to a formal written declaration of intent for the Monterey School, by February 1, 2016.
- Confirm that the Monterey schoolhouse and Monterey School program is open, not closed.

On Thursday, July 23, the Board of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District voted to accept this agreement without modification.

What does that mean for the Monterey school and the Monterey School program?

- The school building will remain open, but will not house a kindergarten class during the 2015–2016 school year.
- The building will be repaired and may be used for special programs, as the district sees fit.
- The Early Childhood Development Committee, together with our school representative and the select board, shall watch enrollment numbers and work to develop programs that will best utilize our beloved community school.

We will keep you updated…

—Monterey Select Board

Aftermath
Drawings by Mariam Stephan
August 14 - October 10
Reception: Friday, August 14, 6:30-8pm
Artist talk at 6pm
KNOX GALLERY
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Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
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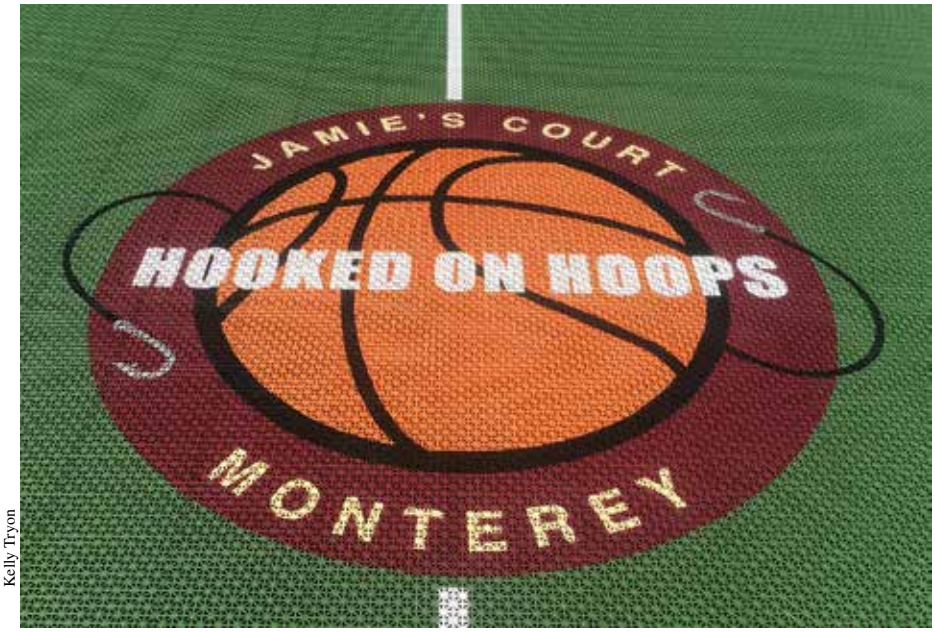
Hooked On Hoops
The Story of Jamie's Court

Jamie Bogdanoff was forty-seven years old when he passed away from cancer in 2008. He was born and raised in Greenwich Village, NY and was a lifelong summer resident of the Lake Garfield community in Monterey. He was a family man first and foremost. I met Jamie's wife, Robin, when he first brought her to Lake Garfield for a visit while she and Jamie attended Clark University. My family all knew that weekend that they were meant to be together. Jamie's daughter, Phoebe, is beautiful teenage girl, inside and out, who has the sparkle of her father's eyes and his smile. Jamie was a talented and accomplished television producer, last working for ABC's *Good Morning America*. He was a genuine soul with a great smile and laugh who never yelled. He was passionate about music and was a Dead Head and a Parrot Head who couldn't get enough of Bruce Springsteen. Jamie was my best friend.

For the past forty years, from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day, you could always find a basketball game on Sunday mornings in the park. There were regulars, from Lake Garfield summer residents and town residents including Jamie, myself, Randy Gelbard, Jay Amidon, Pat Regan, Scott and Troy Jervas, Dave Brown, and Mick Burns, and in later years my brother Chris. This wonderful group of friends continues to show up week after week and year after year. We have had players ranging in ages from fifteen to seventy, including brothers, fathers and sons, nephews and nieces, summer and town residents and their guests. Jamie may not have been the best player on the court or the most fleet of foot, but he loved the game, shared the ball well, could go to his left, and had a decent shot. He was a team player for sure and he always knew the score when no one else did. The games have always been competitive and we play to win, but winning or losing is secondary. First and foremost are the bonds and close friendships that have developed between these players that have showed up to play week in and week out, year after year. That is what is most important during Sunday morning hoops and this is Jamie's legacy.



Kelly Tryon

On July 5, after dedicated work and financial support from the town and friends of Jamie Bogdanoff, and the surprise reappearance of the old town hall (in the ground), Jamie's court was officially opened.

While Jamie may have been an average basketball player on the court, he was the best fisherman I have ever met. From the time we were grade school boys, we fished religiously. We would fish Lake Garfield and walk the Konkapot River from the Lake Garfield dam to the center of town on a regular basis. Hands down, he always caught more fish and bigger fish than I and everyone else. A smallmouth bass, a sailfish, and a hammerhead shark are mounted on the walls of the "Fish Room" in the Bogdanoff cottage that Jamie grew up in on Lake Garfield. After college we began taking annual fishing trips to Grand Lake Stream, Maine, and Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Over the years, these trips included various extended family members and friends, including Jamie's nephew, my brother, my nephew, my brothers-in-law, and various friends. At ages eight and seven respectively, my two sons, Christopher (now twenty-two) and Tyler (now twenty-one), joined us on the >

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Hooked on Hoops, cont.

trip and haven't missed one since. These trips have always been a search for more fish and bigger fish and different species of fish. Similar to the score on the basketball court, the fish caught are secondary. First and foremost are the bonds and close friendships forged between these fishermen while sitting in a boat, with fishing poles in our hands, on beautiful bodies of water surrounded by breathtaking wilderness and wildlife year after year. This is really what the fishing trips are all about and this too is Jamie's legacy.

After Jamie passed, Randy Gelbard, Dave Quisenberry, Scott Jervas, and I decided to raise money to donate to the Town of Monterey for building Jamie's Court. It is finally a reality! When I was trying to think of a slogan to best exemplify Jamie's true spirit, and the bonds and friendships forged on the basketball court while shooting hoops or on the water fishing, "Hooked on Hoops" immediately came to mind. I envisioned the fishing hooks and the basketball together to combine Jamie's love of playing Sunday morning basketball with his love of fishing. Nicole Amidon really captured the spirit and intent of the slogan with her perfect logo design displayed on the center of the court.

A special thanks to the following individuals without whom we would not have Jamie's Court: Randy Gelbard for his perseverance and being my right hand man throughout this endeavor; to Dave Quisenberry for his assistance with the site plans to submit to the town and attendance at meetings; to Jay Amidon and Scott Jervas for their support and assistance at meetings with town representatives; to Nicole Amidon for her spectacular logo design; to Josh Allentuck for picking up the ball and getting it rolling with the Town; to Kelly Tryon for picking up where Josh left off and seeing the project through to completion; to Leigh Tryon for his donation of excavation services; and to all the town officials, especially Parks and Recreation, and the Monterey Select Board, who supported the project . Finally, I want to thank all of the members of the community and family and friends of Jamie, near and far, who donated the funds necessary for us to assist the town to build Jamie's Court. I am so grateful for all of your help.

Jamie's Court is now a legacy for future generations of summer and town residents and their guests to enjoy. I have no doubt that my grandchildren will someday play in the Sunday morning games. In the end, the final score of the games will not matter most; instead it will be the bonds and many friendships formed amongst the people who show up to play on Jamie's Court. Come on down on a Sunday morning and join us and get hooked on hoops!

— Gregory P. Carnese

Lake Garfield Losing
The War on Weeds

The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) have initiated an all-out offensive to stop the dreaded invasion of Eurasian Milfoil in our lake; if not stopped, milfoil can take over! So far, we are losing this war on weeds.

FLG, after considerable research, formulated a five-year plan that was to cost $50,000 to remove the milfoil. FLG had $10,000 in their reserve fund. The town contributed $15,000. In June we employed divers using suction to uproot, downsize and hopefully eliminate an acre of milfoil.

Unfortunately, in the year that it took to get permits and raise needed funds, milfoil has invaded ten more acres of Lake Garfield. This is more than suction harvesting can handle, plus the cost would be prohibitive. We are looking at treatment with an herbicide named Sonar, which inhibits photosynthesis and is relatively specific to milfoil. A thorough survey will be done to get a more accurate assessment. Costs will unquestionably be higher than originally expected.

Lake Garfield is the jewel of Monterey. Its endless beauty spans the seasons, providing an array of recreational activities for us all to enjoy. Lake Garfield adds to the value of every home in Monterey. If milfoil is not controlled properly, home values will drop, tax revenues from all

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property—especially lakefront property—will drop, and all taxpayers in Monterey will have to shoulder the resulting tax burden. Milfoil can make the lake a nightmare for boaters and swimmers. Many infested lakes, such as Lake Buel, must harvest the weeds twice weekly during the summer at a tremendous cost to lakefront residents.

Please, be a Friend of Lake Garfield. Send a contribution to FLG, Box 355, Monterey, MA 01245. You can join FLG and/or find more info on our website: LakeGarfieldMA.org

Next general meeting of FLG will be Saturday, August 8, at the town beach, at 9:30 a.m., or at the firehouse, if it rains. We'd love to see you there.

MontereyFest is scheduled for August 22.

—Hy Rosen
Friends of Lake Garfield

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In Rememberance
Tom Andrus

Thomas Michael Andrus, 56, of Hayes Hill Road passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2015, at his home in Mill River. Born on April 24, 1959, in Great Barrington, MA, he was the son of Thomas E. and Patricia Andrus.

After graduating from high school in 1977, he traveled across the country on his motorcycle. Once back in his home town of Monterey, his passion for automobiles fueled him to buy and establish Precision Autocraft in 1979. The business expanded over the next ten years, and in the mid-90's relocated to Route 7 in Sheffield, to accommodate its growth.

The integrity he brought to his life and to his business was the backbone of his success. Tom was thoughtful, compassionate, and kind in personal and in business endeavors, which was a gift to everyone he came in contact with. He had a witty sense of humor that kept his family and his countless friends close, grinning, and delighted to be in his presence always. At times, he was an avid reader and thoroughly enjoyed the education he gained, spiritually and otherwise from his books. Taking long drives in and around the Berkshires to his favorite landmarks and restaurants with his wife, Kathy, was an activity that brought them both great pleasure and joy. Mostly, Tom felt incredibly blessed, for his family, his friends, and his time with them.

As well as being a beloved husband to Kathy Marchione Carson Andrus, Tom was the greatest dad to his stepdaughter Melissa Carson Andrus, his son Max T. Andrus, and daughter-in-law Jennifer Alfonso. One of his greatest joys was his grandson Jackson T. Morse, Melissa's son. He also leaves his sister, Susan Andrus Lucas, and three brothers, Daniel, Richard, and Jon Andrus, and their families.

music and more 15

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August 8 *Tatiana Dimitriades, violin; Jonathan Bass, piano*
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August 22 *Dane Johansen, cello; Victor Stanislavsky, piano*
Beethoven's Sonata No. 3 in A Major (1808), Elliott Carter's Sonata for Cello and Piano (1948) and Edvard Grieg's Sonata for Cello and Piano in A minor, Op. 36 (1882).

August 29 *Frank Kelley, tenor; Joshua Rifkin, piano*
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Town Hall Organization
Structure Committee Report

The Town Hall Structure Advisory Committee was formed in November of 2014 at the direction of the select board. The members were charged to "study the structure and dynamics of Town Hall, enhance the Select Board's understanding of problems, and make recommendations to the Select Board of ways to improve the overall administration of our local government as well as provide suggestions for improving the work environment of our employees at Town Hall."

The full report can be viewed as a PDF at goo.gl/v6XkAt

Members of the now-dissolved committee included chair Larry Klein, Bethany Mielke, Norma Champigny, Scott Jenssen, Bob Lazzarini, Muriel Lazzarini, Ray Tryon, and Steven Weisz.

On June 8, the committee, led by Larry Klein, came before the select board to present their findings. The report was a study of approximately twenty years of town hall activities. The intention of the report was to diagnose and provide solutions to overarching, persistent issues afflicting Monterey town government over a long period. The committee requested at the meeting that the people of Monterey be made aware of the findings.

The first few pages of the report include findings of the issues that led up to the recommendations for corrective action. Over several months, the committee interviewed employees located in town hall, asking questions regarding the "general atmosphere" of town hall among other things, and soliciting suggestions on how to enhance the overall town hall work setting. Additional interviews were conducted with Joseph Kellogg, a consultant and former town manager of Great Barrington and Lenox.

The committee made recommendations for immediate action. One recommendation suggested clearer job descriptions for everyone in town hall. Another recommendation suggested that each entity (boards, departments, committees, commissions) have a select board member as a liaison and advocate to the full board to improve communication and problem solving. Another proposal was to involve Mr. Kellogg as a consultant to the board, which he became soon after. The committee also recommended the creation of a "fiscal team" consisting of the accountant, the treasurer, the tax collector, the principal assistant assessor, a select board member, and the town administrator (if one is hired) to meet at least monthly and handle the town's fiscal progress and developments.

The committee also advised that the select board must assume more responsibilities in administering the town, including assuming some tasks currently done by the administrative assistant, such as web management, contacting town counsel, and interpreting the counsel's guidance. Also proposed was restoring top-down management wherein the select board would deal with heads of departments, and they in turn would be responsible for their employees. Mr. Klein commented that this suggestion is not as much of a difficulty for the select board, but he gave as an example the rarity of the police chief meeting with his entire department. It should be noted that steps towards more frequent police meetings were announced by the chief at the July 13 select board meeting.

Another recommendation was to make town hall officials more accessible. The committee recommended that having the town clerk holding hours on Saturday would be a start and suggested that a select board member sit for a couple of hours on Saturdays to allow citizens better access to the board itself.

Finally, there were two major recommendations for changes in town governance made in the report. The first was to transition Monterey to a town administrator form of government. This would, to quote the report, "address our lack of a Human Resources person in Town Hall." Additionally, the town administrator would keep the town moving in a time when, the Restructuring Committee reports, the requirements facing Monterey are becoming "more and more complex." The report cites a need for "a professional to keep us informed, to keep us running smoothly, and to provide accurate information for decision making."

Mr. Kellogg attended the June 15 select board meeting to discuss the creation of a town administrator form of government in Monterey. He said that the position

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is open to broad definition and can hold as much or as little responsibility as the select board wishes. Mr. Kellogg commented that the person cannot be a secretary, but that they can do clerical duties with support of others. The position would need to be clearly designed and defined with all three board members in agreement with whatever the final position might look like.

The second major recommendation was for the town to switch the elected offices of treasurer, town clerk, and possibly tax collector to appointed offices by the select board, granting the board "more control over the fiscal functioning of the town." The offices of finance committee and the board of assessors would continue to be elected to "give balance to the budget process." In making these suggestions, the committee was not intending to suggest that the current office holders are incapable. Over time the town would benefit from this change since elected offices must be filled by town residents, whereas appointed officials can be selected from a much larger pool and can be hired on merit.

At the end of the presentation, the select board thanked the committee for both the work presented and the demonstrated dedication to the task at hand. The board agreed to take the recommendations to heart and would look at which recommendations could be implemented soon. Select board member Steven Weisz commented, "The board has not been paying enough attention to employees in town hall. We've been rebuilding trust, and what makes it difficult is that there's no one in the building at the same time as the board." He continued by asserting that a town administrator would be a good buffer for many of the problems outlined in the report.

The committee ended the report on a note of thanks and optimism, stating that it was "an honor to serve Monterey" and that they are "hopeful that our recommendations will have a positive impact on the various problems that have been exposed through our investigation."

The ending note continued, "The love of our town is deep in the hearts of all of our residents, and we hope that this affection for Monterey can also show itself in the atmosphere permeating Town Hall and in the entire governance of our town."

—Jacob Edelman

M. Banner

A summer luncheon at the Barrington Brewery organized by the Council on Aging.

Monterey Council on Aging
Upcoming Events

The council has planned a tour of Chesterwood with Cynthia Weber as our docent. It is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow at Michael's in Stockbridge at 1 p.m. Self drive. Cost not yet determined. Sign up with Maryellen by August 15 at mbrown007@earthlink.net or call 528-1598.

Flexpass theater tickets have been arranged with Chester Theater and Berkshire Theater. A few free tickets may still be available. Book with Maryellen and then pick up pass at town hall.

The Erie Canal Cruise, Thursday, September 24, 2015, will cost $65, with council subsidy. A forty-passenger bus has been arranged to leave Monterey at 8 a.m. and return by 6 p.m. We'll arrive in Herkimer, NY, at 11:15, enjoy a hot buffet at 11:30, and board the Lil Diamond at 12:45 for a ninety-minute narrated cruise including a lock and maybe a visit to the pilot house. At 2:30 we return to the dock and plan on boarding the bus by 3 p.m. The gift shop Gems Along the Mohawk will be open. As always, we worry about having enough people to fill the bus, so please let us know as soon as you can if you are interested. We'll notify other local councils of the trip. Flyers will be posted. Check in with Maryellen Brown.

FYI—Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation has expanded its bus service. On Tuesdays the bus will make a trip to Pittsfield for medical appointments. Call 528-4773 for information and to arrange a ride.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Oktoberfest
Saturday October 10 2015
BRATS BEER FOOD MUSIC FUN!
Monterey Community Center 468 Main Road ccmonterey.org

Monterey Library Notes

Thank you all for your support for the annual book and plant sale. Myrna Rosen continues to help out with her plant deals. The younger members of the Friends of the Monterey Library sell lemonade and help with moving all those books out. Gould Farm also helps by moving books, and the Roadside Store makes a wonderfully tasty lunch for the volunteers. The Fish Hatchery provides two canopies. The church and others lend us tables. All year long you all have been donating, and our sorters have been organizing and sorting. The Friends and trustees staff the sale. It truly is a massive effort and the Monterey Library appreciates all this work and would not be the same without our book sale and the funds we raise to do much needed extras!

Bernard Drew, a well known Berkshire historian and author, in 2009 published *Literary Luminaries of the Berkshires: From Herman Melville to Patricia Highsmith.* Drew will talk about his book with a focus on Monterey connections, at the Monterey Library on Monday, August 17, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to the free event.

The Berkshires has long appealed to talented writers, from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Edith Wharton to Sinclair Lewis and Joan Ackermann. The Green River in Great Barrington inspired William Cullen Bryant's poetry. Patricia Highsmith, during an interlude in Lenox, quizzed her undertaker-landlord for information she might use in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. In Monterey, native Norwegian author Sigrid Undset found refuge during wartime. Mystery writer Hugh C. Wheeler, during the eight months a year he was in Monterey, could write sixty to seventy pages a day. Future president James A. Garfield was inspired to write a forty-five-line verse after visiting the town.

Drew, who lives in Great Barrington, has collected information about local fiction writers and poets for more than thirty years. *Literary Luminaries of the Berkshires* chronicles some 250 wordsmiths who took inspiration from these hills and valleys. "Don't expect encyclopedia entries," the author said. "This is written from a local historian's point of view, looking closely at the relationship of these writers to the landscape and culture of the Berkshires."

Libby Wolff

Myrna Rosen letting us know that Clark Nursery in Lee donated the annuals sold at the library book sale.

Drew reveals an unexpected early influence on writers here; examines a different aspect of the famed 1850 Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne climb up Monument Mountain; and identifies the six hardest-to-find novels by Berkshire writers, including one outstanding clunker.

During the rest of the month of August we will continue our summer reading program for the children—it's not too late to take advantage of Scott Cole's offer of free ice cream at the Monterey General Store if the children read the required amount.

Two final events are sure to be popular on Saturday mornings. August 8 Jim Snack will perform his magic at 10:30 a.m. John Porcino, a dear old friend, will be here on August 15, also at 10:30 a.m. His collection of unusual musical instruments and stories to go along with them is another show you need to see. Don't miss out on these incredible performances.

Don't forget we are a full service library. Besides the books, we have audios, videos, museum passes, magazines and e-materials of all formats. The library can provide access to many databases. Our new website is the place to start finding out about what is going on and how to access our resources. Bookmark it at montereymasslibrary.org

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

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Sandisfield Pipeline
Just a Sandisfield Question?

In the June *Monterey News* Bonner McAllester wrote about the question of just where do we each locate our "backyards", when we draw our lines of concern for political, geographical, and other issues that present themselves. She focused on the Kinder Morgan pipeline project perhaps happening soon in Sandisfield as a test of her own personal line.

I have been reading the *Sandisfield Times* for several years now, and thought myself to be reasonably informed about the pipeline proposal. Even so, it seemed to warrant a closer look. So I asked around for who would be a good person to speak with, and everyone pointed me in the direction of Ron Bernard, who lives on Town Hill Road in Sandisfield. (Shortly after researching and writing this article, the paper received a letter to the editor from Thelma Esteves of Sandisfield, which provides more information. See page 13.)

Ron is an enthusiastic opponent of the project, taking in past, present, and potential future issues. And I should note that the existing pipeline, two actually, one from 1951 and the other from 1981, already run through a corridor on his property, maybe two hundred feet behind his house on Cold Spring Road. The new pipeline project will widen the corridor of bare ground another seventy-five feet, including an additional fifty feet of width that will be cleared as a working space.

The Project Proposal

Kinder Morgan proposes to build almost four miles of thirty-six-inch diameter buried pipeline. This is one of three sections Kinder Morgan is planning. Another one is in the Albany area, and the third is where the pipeline crosses into Connecticut in the Granby area. These will be basically branch pipes, connected at one end to the existing pipe, buried alongside the existing pipelines, with the far ends sealed. It is intended to increase the volume of gas that moves through the pipes. However, they do not say that it is for "storage," because that would subject the project to a very different set of regulatory controls.

The new pipeline will connect to the existing pipe on the east side of Town Hill Road not very far south of its intersection with Route 23 where there is currently a fenced-in facility for maintaining the pipeline. This is at the northern reaches of Sandisfield, and is actually closer to the villages of Otis and Monterey. From the connection point the pipeline corridor runs in a southeasterly direction, just south of the southern end of Lower Spectacle Pond and another couple of miles beyond to where it crosses South Beech Plain Road. The pipeline corridor passes through a portion of Article 97 conserved state park land as well as sixteen designated wetlands, and will involve some amount of blasting in both wet and dry lands.

Current Status

Despite the town of Sandisfield having unanimously voted against permitting the pipeline extension, Kinder Morgan has persevered, knowing the state and federal rules much better than the local folks in these small towns in western Massachusetts. They had hoped to have all the permitting process completed by the end of July 2015, but the persistent opposition by a group of Sandisfield residents has obstructed the company's permit progress.

One of the last, and most significant hurdles for the project, is that the pipeline is planned to pass through Otis State Forest land around Spectacle Pond, which is Article 97 land (as is Beartown State Forest land). Article 97, passed in 1972 and made part of the state's constitution, protects land set aside for conservation from being developed except by a two-thirds vote of the legislature and the governor's signature. Over the forty-year history of Article 97, the legislature has voted for waivers for small encroachments, which are generally passed quite simply by unanimous votes . The article requires that there be no net loss of conservation land and so other lands need to be added to the conservation area.

When the last pipeline was constructed in 1981, the land that is now state forest land was still privately owned, so Article 97 did not apply. Thus the fact that there are already two pipelines run- >

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AUGUST

In the Gallery
August 8 - 30

Robin Tost: "Not Your Grandmother's Quilt - Fabrications in Metal"
SAT, AUG 8 2-4 PM
Opening Reception FREE

SAT, AUG 8 4 PM
FORUM: Bill Cohn on American Culture and Wartime Propaganda $10

SAT, AUG 8 8 PM
Easy Ridin' Papas $15

SAT, AUG 22 4 PM
Cathy Barrow on Preserving
(Book signing follows) $10

SAT, AUG 29 4 PM
Jo Garfield on the Roosevelts in Sandisfield
*Tickets by donation

ning in essentially the same place makes the application of Article 97 restrictions complicated.

This project may be one of the largest challenges to Article 97 in its history, and Kinder Morgan is seeking an "emergency" decree to permit it to avoid being subject to the law. I do not know if there has been any offer of additional land to be put under conservation. Land conservation organizations are worried that if this project gets any kind of waiver of Article 97 restrictions, other designated conservation areas would become subject to possible development, and land donors might defer having lands put into Article 97 protection.

Project Impacts in the Area

This project is huge. The total cost for the three sections is estimated to be $80 million. Mr. Bernard says that this section is going to be the most difficult portion. The New York section runs essentially through farmland, and the Connecticut portion is less than one and a half miles long. If they get their permits in time, they plan to begin some preparation for staging sites in Sandisfield this fall. Then, during the winter, they will be doing the forest cutting to widen the existing pipeline corridor. Once the weather warms in the spring, they will be doing pipeline construction for perhaps four months, with several more months cleaning up, rebuilding roads, and installing equipment. They have a deadline of November 2016 to meet a gas order, which was used as evidence of need in their early filings with the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC).

In their engineering filings it is apparent that the volume of traffic, and the size and weight of construction vehicles, will have a drastic impact on the roads and travel in the area. It is likely that a significant amount of this traffic will be vehicles coming down from I-90 in Lee, through Tyringham, and on to Sandisfield.

Building pipelines is a very specialized engineering task. As a result, almost all of the work will be done by contractors from outside the area and may have limited impact on local job opportunities. Some of the pipe-laying equipment, and support vehicles, will be huge and heavy. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission told Sandisfield to anticipate that many of their roads will suffer extensive damage from this project. The fact that few of Sandisfield's roads have established load limits may be an invitation to overload the roads.

There have been rumors that Lower Spectacle Pond will be "drained" as a result of this project, but Mr. Bernard said that the company wants to use a million gallons of water from Lower Spectacle Pond to pressure test the line before use. This seems like a large number, but in reality it is only a few inches of water out of the pond. The more difficult questions are from which strata the water will be drawn this has long-term implications for the wildlife, and what will happen to the water used in the testing.

Conservation versus Capital

This pipeline project is another opportunity to consider the issue of conservation versus capital. We have known for a long time that the least expensive way to make more energy available and to do the least environmental damage is by actively conserving and using resources more efficiently. However, the need for conservation is so dispersed across locations and people and culture, that it's hard to find ways to make it happen on a large scale, which often requires money. But for energy companies that can promise profits to those who concentrate capital into their companies, the business of providing more and more energy is an easy sell.

I spoke with a friend who also has the pipeline running through his property but at a considerable distance from his house. He commented about the pipeline extension (which would not include his portion of the corridor), "Well, that's progress." But he also said that if the pipeline was right behind his house, he would be against it. And there, in a nutshell, was Bonner's question: "Where do we draw the line?"

—Stephen Moore

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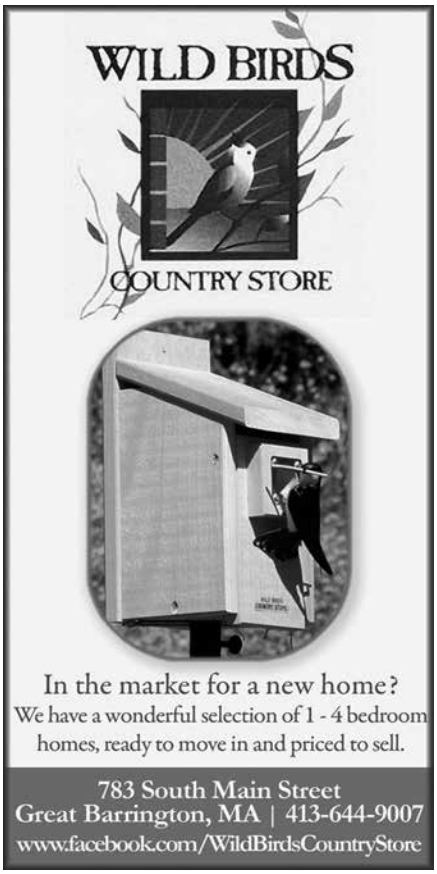
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Sandisfield's Pipeline Expansion

Recently a resident of Monterey asked about the proposed expansion of the Tennessee Gas Company (TGP) pipeline in the Beech Plain section of Sandisfield where I live.

The existing pipeline right-of-way already contains two very old twenty-four-inch natural gas lines dating from 1951 and 1981. Now a third line, a thirty-six-inch extension, euphemistically called a "loop" but which appears to be a giant high-pressure storage container to boost velocity in the old lines, is planned to be installed across 3.8 miles of Sandisfield in 2016. About half runs through the Spectacle Pond section of the Otis State Forest, conservation land permanently protected under Massachusetts constitutional Article 97. The rest is on private property.

For the past two years town residents and outside supporters have vigorously opposed this project on environmental, economic, and health and safety grounds. Surely you noticed the signs and banners. But it appears that despite these efforts the company has satisfied state environmental requirements and is working on getting town permits. They will need final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) before the work can proceed. FERC rarely turns down such applications. Once there is a federal permit, this company is free to seize property under eminent domain. The question of a special waiver or exemption from Article 97 on the state forest land is unresolved. That requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature and the governor's signature. Representative Pignatelli and Senator Downing have been steadfast in opposition.

By now you may be thinking, "Too bad for the folks in Sandisfield but at least we in Monterey (or Tyringham) won't be affected." Better think again. It seems that many residents and even town officials in nearby communities may not be well informed about this imminent debacle. Starting in January 2016, crews will arrive with enormous machinery to clearcut a swath of at least seventy-five feet of forest land including through sixteen designated wetlands. Then hundreds of out-of-state contractors with dozens of special cranes, excavators, and bulldozers will rip up the countryside. Almost two hundred truckloads of huge pipe weighing up to forty tons per load will be hauled in and staged on already very marginal Town Hill Road, Cold Spring Road at Spectacle Pond, and on (gravel) Beech Plain Road. Enormous dump trucks will haul out the remains of the mangled trees. Countless other large trucks will transport materials back and forth across Beech Plain Road. According to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, "your roads will be destroyed." This includes portions of Town Hill Road and Route 23 as well as most of Cold Spring Road east from Route 23 to Beech Plain Road. Moreover, it's likely that materials and heavy equipment will move over the just improved Tyringham Road in Lee. If you use these roads, expect many and lengthy detours and delays and a general big mess of mud and grit and dust six days a week for months during 2016.

Then there is the probability that blasting will be needed, not only in the rocky sections, especially near Lower Spectacle Pond, but even in wetlands as large boulders are encountered. Meanwhile gas will continue to flow through the two old lines despite major construction only feet away. What could possibly go wrong?

Some of us can speak to that from experience. When the 1981 line was being installed, a blasting accident ruptured the adjacent 1951 line. Catastrophe (explosion) was averted, but long-time Monterey, Sandisfield, and Otis residents and their fire chiefs will never forget that run-for-your-life phone call. The company says that this time will be different. That's what we were told in 1981. Are your fire and emergency services prepared for an incident? Now or in the future?

Interested in selling or renting your property in the next few years? Good luck. Real estate agents are already having a hard time because this project has to be disclosed to potential buyers. The closer you are to this thing, the more likely that your property's value will be affected. Potential buyers have so many choices in the Berkshires.

Do you love nature and the amazing environment we live in? Of course you do. A horrible permanent scar across this beautiful land is about to double to at least 150 feet. Forget about enjoying Lower Spectacle Pond next year, especially as one million gallons of water are sucked out to test the integrity of the new pipeline. And there is nothing to prevent even more pipelines being added to the corridor. In fact there is already talk about the possibility of a fourth line through here as an alternative to the company's proposed 2018 major line (known as the "NED"), which is proposed to cross from New York state across northern Massachusetts to Dracut.

These abominations will be in the ground for decades and long after the demand for fossil fuels inevitably declines. That will be the foolish legacy left for the coming generations.

—Thelma Esteves
Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline (S.T.O.P.)

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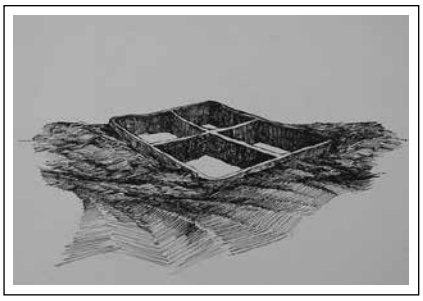
August at the Knox Gallery

Please hurry over to see Knox Gallery's current exhibit, *clay.light.tea*, before it closes on August 8. The exhibiting artists, Tasja Keetman and Michael Marcus, have used the gallery in a completely new way, creating a serene space with mesmerizing, dramatic photographic and ceramic work artfully juxtaposed.

The artists spoke briefly at the reception on June 27 about the work and Zen influences on their creative expression, and they demonstrated a tea ceremony utilizing craft objects of their making on Thursday, July 23. We greatly appreciate all the effort these artists put into this exhibit and for offering such a special event. (And a special thanks to Mark Makuc, library director, for all the extra effort this exhibit requires.)



Mariam Stephan, "Quartered Raft"

Our next exhibition, *Aftermath*, which opens Friday, August 14, with an artist's talk from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and a reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. that evening, allows the gallery to further broaden our reach on art. Mariam Stephan's black-and-white ink drawings, loosely based on Franz Kafka's short stories, directly connect visual art to literature.

Maureen Banner

The Knox Gallery held the opening of clay.light.tea *on June 26. The exhibition of pottery and photographs can be viewed until Saturday, August 8.*

The starkness of Stephan's chosen medium seems perfectly suited to her images of intimate, precarious structures and "speaks to a state of alienation and brutality." She poses the question: "What does it feel like to have the ground swept out from underneath you?" Being filled with anger and regret as her mother's health declined from Alzheimer's prompted Stephan to reconsider her understanding of Kafka's outlook as far-fetched and absurd; his worlds seemed close to her reality. These drawings began as a kind of purging and unraveling, expressing both her mother's transformation and the loss of aspects of her own spirit that she was experiencing at the same time.

The artist lives and works in North Carolina where she teaches painting and drawing at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She received a BFA in painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and an MFA in painting from the University of Washington. Stephan exhibits regularly and has received many awards, including a Fulbright to study in Egypt in 2011.

Aftermath will be on exhibit until September 26. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for supporting the Knox Gallery and to the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils for the grants that underwrite our artists' talks.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

MONTEREY LIBRARY

The library has a new website.
Visit MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
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Garden

Walking with my love around our gardens

Each showing the other the latest task completed

Walking in the sun, he said, "I love what you do here

How you take such good care of us."

I saw a tiny womb translucent

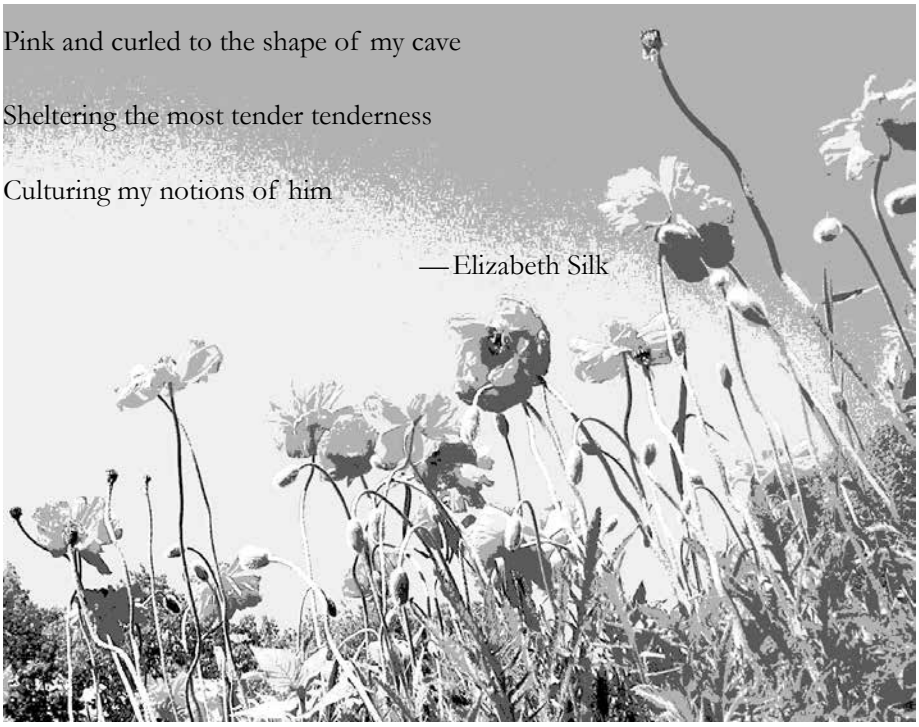
And holding human limbs and head

Pink and curled to the shape of my cave

Sheltering the most tender tenderness

Culturing my notions of him

—Elizabeth Silk



June Poppies, S. Moore

Loving

touch me

touch you again

hold you

and dance on me with your fingers

and trace my eyes

so softly

nuzzle you

snuffle me

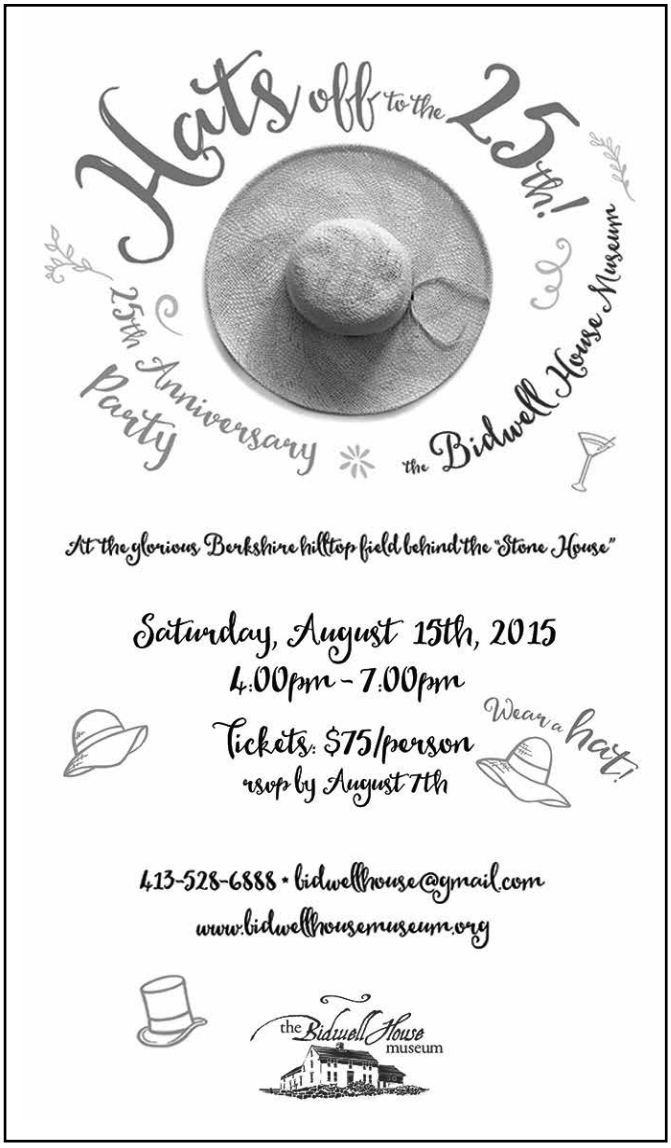
oh, love

you smelt so sweet, so familiar

when you fell asleep!

— a.o.

MontereyFest 2015
Saturday AUGUST 22nd
In Support of a healthy
Lake Garfield
Join us for a day of music, food, games and lots of
fun in the sun.
All starts on town beach at 2:00
Bounce House, Boat Rides, Tug of War,
Face Painting and sand castles.
Balloon Man!
Hot dogs, popcorn, Snow Cones will be served
and BYO drinks and picnic.
Campfire Marshmellows roast
Music



Steven Weisz

Steak Roast 2015—The Hayrollers performed in the gazebo. The fire company cooked up a storm on a beautiful day.

2015 Hatchery Lobsterfest
Sunday, August 23, at 2 p.m.

The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery invites you once again to the Sunday afternoon outdoor celebration at this picturesque historic location that houses ten 4,600-gallon fish pools stocked with lake and brook trout. This year will be a repeat of last year's catering by the popular Other Brother Darryl's, starting with hors d'oeuvres of raw clam bar over ice, with lemon cocktail and mignonette sauces, and clam chowder. One free wine or beer will be available courtesy of Domaney's Liquors. The Maine Course: steamed one and one-quarter pound lobster, a mesh bag of steamed clams and corn on the cob, famous grilled herbed potatoes, green beans almandine, and salad. Dessert includes watermelon and cookies from Gould Farm. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks are available for kids.

A spectacular raffle table will feature gifts from Evergreen, Wild Birds, Taft Farms, Berkshire Mountain Distillery, Domaney's Wine and Liquor, Ward's Nursery and Garden Center, Butternut Basin, and local restaurants, as well as gift certificates from other Great Barrington merchants.

The hatchery has a guest speaker for this year's Lobsterfest. Tim Purinton, director of the division of ecological restoration for MA, will talk about taking down dams for waterway restoration. Last year Jeff Mosher and Tom Reeves gave visitors a bonus viewing of lake trout spawning half a million eggs for Lakes Erie, Ontario, and Champlain to benefit multiple government and state agencies as well as non-governmental organizations, including Native American tribal partners and international allies in Canada.

This year the hatchery supplied over twelve thousand brook trout for twenty -five public fishing events in western Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as our own fishing derbies at the lower roadside pond. This derby pond has been a trend-setting example of youth outreach for local communities and has set the stage for hundreds of children to discover their aquatic interests. The pond is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week, on a permit basis. Children are able to fish the stocked pond to connect with a part of our natural heritage. Please sign in at the hatchery office before beginning to fish.

The Berkshire Hatchery has had nine lives since it's founding in 1917 by the Estate of John Sullivan Scully, including a period when it was closed due to budget restraints. But thanks to you and other loyal supporters, the hatchery is growing in importance in the national fish hatchery system. Come to the fourteenth consecutive Lobsterfest on August 23 to break bread and crack lobster shells with your friends and the people who have made the hatchery so successful. If you would like to learn more, go to fws.gov/northeast/Berkshire or berksfish.com.

As the afternoon sun begins to set on the 2015 growing season with the sound of music and entertainment rippling down the mountainside, the hatchery will be spawning fish for its own future as well as reaching out to youngsters, for they are also our future.

Fish & Wildlife Service

The site is blessed with a geological motherlode of pristine and perfectly cold life-giving water, gushing up from an aquifer far below in the Earth, and into another season for this aquatic landmark that you help support.

—George Emmons
Hatchery President

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law
17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230
Telephone: (413) 528-5040
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Beaked Hazelnuts
Shrubs on the Edges

In college I had a class called Man as an Agent of Landscape Change. I liked the title, and have often transposed it to be about beavers, for instance, who are agents of landscape change, too. I think of us "men" building the Grand Coulee Dam, and then I think about the long dams and stepwise water systems built by beavers all over the country, and I feel a kinship.

I sit at the top of the garden every morning, watching the light, the tree swallows, drops of water on the pole bean leaves. I note that the landscape I have changed here, a big garden chopped out of the woods forty years ago, is robotically rectangular, set in rows, and all that. We brought the sun in to a patch of ground that was once deep woods and shade. We were then and are still agents of landscape change, or of keeping the landscape like we like it. I am the one, mainly, and I use hand tools because they are quiet and slow: clippers, scythe, handsaw. If I did not keep after things, the woods would come jumping back into the clear space and we would not get much corn, squash, and beans. We'd be scratching our heads over the white pines, paper birches, and rising oaks. Can we make it through the winter on these?

Back before the chainsaw and the truck, human animals did make it through the winter here. We were agents of change, even then, though. We knew how to favor some edible things, and we did this through fire.

The history of folks' use of fire is a great thing to read about. You'll sit indoors at a desk or computer to do this, so whenever it's not freezing or pouring, go out and take a look. We are back to me at the top of the garden, the open place that I am keeping open. I am not just talking about pulling weeds, I mean working at the edges. One old pal says, "As my sainted mother would say, 'Butter the edges and the middle will take care of itself.'" I think of this. There I am, fighting the green stuff, the powerful life force of plants at the edges of my piece of toast. The middle, the actual garden, is still in the sun, still obeying my wishes in tidy rows of what I like to munch all winter.

As I monitor and butter the edges, I make life and death choices. Some of the wild things growing there won't get very tall, won't shade out our winter dinners. These could be considered good neighbors, or at least not a major threat. So I leave the short ones. These include alternate-leaved dogwoods, choke cherries, and a population of raspberries and blackberries. Another short neighbor along the edge is the beaked hazelnut.

Some people might not notice this neighbor: not the shrub, not the leaves and flowers, and not the nuts. I didn't either until lately, but I see them now, every morning as I am keeping track. They have flowers like some kind of birch. We biologists call these *catkins* and they look like hanging ornaments. These are a clue as to the family relatives of the shrub, if I want to look it up. This means putting down the tree book with its tall birches and picking up the shrub book.

Pat Arnow

The New Nature Library*, one of Bonner's botany bibles, during her wildflowers walk in July.*

Look in that book, notice the leaf or the flower or the fruit, and your detective work will be rewarded by an identity, a name: *Corylus cornata*, which is Latin for "beaked hazelnut." *Corylus* means "hazel" and *cornata* is about horns. Unlike some kinds of hazels or hazelnuts, these have horns. The nuts are covered by a hull that is long and pointy off one end. Other

Camp Half Moon
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hazelnuts, wild or domesticated, aren't like this. They have the same genus name, *Corylus*, but their species name does not involve horns.

Our beaked or horned hazelnuts have grown on the edge of this clearing a long time. Certain kinds of soil, big shade trees overhead, all determine whether we might find them here or not. We are lucky on our sandy, loamy hillside. We cut down some big shade trees so we could have a sunny garden. This made edges on a clearing, which is just where beaked hazelnuts thrive. One day I turned my head, opened my eyes, and noticed something: odd-looking groups of fruit, right on these shrubby things I had never seen before. The first ones I noticed were by our outhouse. I kept an eye on them, but the odd fruits vanished after a while and I lost my attention. Now I know them better because they are garden-edge community members, right where I focus my gaze in the fight for sun and survival. I let them live. I look them up. They are not dangerous to me and my way of life. They are beaked hazelnuts. In fact, I can gobble them down, which I love to do with anything possible. I learn that the native people not only gobbled them down, they managed them, changed the landscape to favor them. The Indians saw that these nut-bearers could survive fire better than the pines and paper birches, so they burned over the hazelnut groves. The tops burned away, but the roots and rhizomes underground stayed strong and shot up the next year. Not only did they make good nuts, their sprouts could be used to make baskets and fish traps, also hooks and spoons. If the fires were set when the nuts were ready, the hulls would be burned off and the nuts roasted, easy to gather and eat. I read about this, though I admit it sounds unlikely.

I am not ready to set fire to the garden edges, being too conservative, and not confident about fire management. Our house is made of dry pine logs, right nearby. What if the wind shifted? I am watching the nuts, though. I know squirrels will be in there grabbing them green, a state I don't think of as "nuts ready to eat." I think I should try some then, or bury a few like the squirrels do to see if they season and get delicious. Some of them might sprout and contribute to my long-term food security.

There's plenty more to learn, thank goodness, indoors or out.

—Bonner McAllester

Monterey Community Center

Our tag sale on July 11 was a huge success, as we cleared over $3,500—enough to pay for the entire construction and materials of the kitchenette in the center. Many thanks to all who donated their items, those who came by and purchased what we had, and most of all to the amazing volunteers who helped organize and run the event, all under the direction of "we can do anything and make it fun" Myrna Rosen.

Please stop by and see the construction progress we have been making with your contributions. The exterior is tidied up, windows have casings, and it's almost ready for clapboard siding; we are about to frame up and roof the new entryway; the rough plumbing is complete; and the rough wiring is nearly so.

Upcoming Events

Alex Tinari will be leading the yoga class on Saturday, August 22, beginning at 9 a.m. The cost is only a $10 contribution to the center.

Be sure to save the date of Saturday, October 10, 2015, for our third annual Oktoberfest, a family event with pumpkin rolling and other activities accompanied by live music, brats grilled by Del Martin and the Monterey Fire Company, locally brewed beer, more food, local craft and food vendors, house tours, and more.

As mentioned in our recent mailings, this is an opportune time for you to help out with the construction of the center by sending your tax-deductible donation either by check to Monterey Community Center, PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245, or by secure online donation at our website, ccmonterey.org

Thank you,

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Bidwell House Museum
Township No. 1 Day

Thanks to many, many participants and wonderful volunteers—and divine intervention by the weather gods—Township No. 1 Day was a wonderful day in Monterey.

Rob Hoogs

Congratulations to Township Day Bake-Off winners. There were twenty-one entries in all. These are the winners:

Cake: Special Award: Michael Johnson's Limoncello Ricotta Mascarpone Cheesecake; 1. Ella Carlson's Banana with Maple Cream Cheese Frosting; 2. Madeline Rundle's Chocolate Sour Cream Surprise; 3. Emma Puntin's Devil's Food with Raspberry Frosting.

Pie: 1. Christine Goldfinger's Blueberry Pie; 2. Isabella Boudreau's Strawberry Pie; 3. Benjamin Boudreau's Strawberry Pie.

Cookie: 1. Michael Banner's Lemon Squares; 2. Marya Makuc's Red Velvet Cookies; 3. Maureen Banner's Ginger Oatmeal Cookies.

Thank you to all the terrific bakers for your entries. They were greatly enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to Bake-Off organizers Mary Makuc and Delight Dodyk and to the judges Russ Breeden, Julie Neu, Mimi Parker, Matt Puntin, Maria Rundle, and Eric Schulz.

Live music enhanced the upbeat spirit of the day. Thank you to the musicians: Will Conklin and Adam Brown of the Easy Ridin' Papas; Steve and Pete—the Adams Brothers; and Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof of Moonshine Holler.

Food and drink were supplied by Kenn Basler, Jamie and Marc Roberts, and Nico from SoCo Creamery. The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, Monterey Library ,and Monterey Church lent chairs and tents. Thank you!

Rob Hoogs

The Bidwell House is grateful to the people who offered great programs: the history talks, demonstrations, exhibits, and re-enactors. Thank you to Steve McAlister and Jonah Bader for giving talks. A huge thank you to craftsmen and women: Mike White of Michael White Contractors, in New Marlborough, demonstrated woodworking with vintage tools; Wendy Jensen invited folks to try basket weaving; and Steve and Ian McAlister showed their skills at metal working. Everyone enjoyed the cemetery inventory and photo exhibit by the Tyringham Historical Society. The colonial re-enactors, Steve Seiser and the Butler's Rangers, demonstrated life on the frontier in the colonial time period.

Township No. 1 Day was a success thanks to the volunteers who make it possible: Rob Hoogs, Rick Wilcox, George Emmons, Mary Makuc, Delight Dodyk, Michaela and Lily Schulz, Kathryn Roberts, Justin Makuc, Joe Makuc, Ella Carlson, Jacob Makuc, Marya Makuc, Nancy Jones, Maggie Barkin, Tommie Hutto-Blake, Christine Goldfinger, Elaine Lynch, Richard Greene, Kenn Basler, Walter and MaryJo Engels, Pat Salomon, Frank Kern, Julie Kern, Gil Schrank, Christa Lindsay, Barbara Tryon, Cindy Hoogs, Doug McTavish, Noni Bell, Paul Dodyk, Maggie Howard, Nini Gilder, Sarah Hudson, Libby Wolf, Maria Rundle, Tonio Palmer, Marc Roberts, Jamie Roberts, Ronald Skrepich, Michael Keith, and Rosalia Padilla. Thank you all so much!

Grants from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council, local agencies of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, made the day possible for us all. Thank you ,everyone.

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director

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Bidwell House Museum History Talks in August

Aug. 8: Puritan, Entrepreneur... Heretic?

David M. Powers tells the fascinating story of early colonist William Pynchon (1590–1662), the founder of Springfield, MA, and subject of his just published book Damnable Heresy: *William Pynchon, the Indians, and the First Book Banned (and Burned) in Boston*.

The Bidwell House Museum talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 a.m. Suggested donation of $15, $10 for members.

Aug. 29: Early Waterpower

Historian and author Bernard Drew will present local stories from his new book, *18th & 19th Century Waterpowered Industry in the Upper Housatonic River Valley.* He'll discuss how waterpower shaped Berkshire towns and industries that grew from it, on Saturday, August 29, at 10 a.m. at the Monterey Town Hall. The early settlers harnessed every stream in the Berkshires for a remarkable blossoming of industry in the region. Drew researched the stories of these mills and shops for his 792-page book, uncovering fascinating personalities and dramatic tales of success and failure. Drew's program is part of the Bidwell House Museum History Talks series.

Focusing on Monterey to illustrate the early water-powered industry, Bernie Drew will tell how Monterey's first saw mill site was a bust, how Lake Garfield became a reserve water source for a factory complex in Derby, CT, and how the O'Neill brothers uprooted their paper mill to California and made a fortune, among other curiosities of the town's early industries.

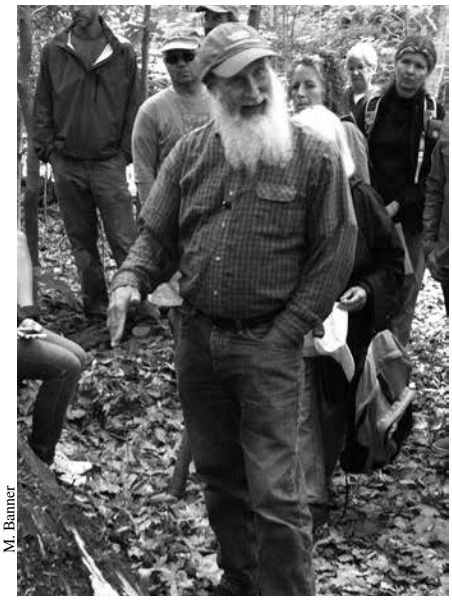
Bernard A. Drew has lived in Great Barrington since 1977. He is a newspaper editor and columnist and the author of local Berkshire histories, including books about Great Barrington, Monument Mountain, Lake Buel, Beartown, and the Knox Trail.

This Bidwell House Museum History Talk will be held at Monterey Town Hall, 435 Main Road, Monterey at 10 a.m. The talk will begin in the town hall, and participants are then invited to walk to nearby sites. There is a suggested contribution of $15/$10 for members of the museum.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For more information, please call 528-6888 or go to bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Rob Hoogs

There was something of interest for everyone at Township No. 1 Day.



M. Banner

At the Bidwell House in late June, Tom Wessels, author of Reading the Forested Landscape*, gave a talk and led a forest walk explaining how to interpret the landscape to determine prior natural and human impacts.*

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The Bidwell House 25th Anniversary Party

The Bidwell House, the Berkshires' colonial history museum in Monterey, is holding its summer fundraising party on Saturday, August 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the hilltop field of the Stone House on Route 23 in Monterey. This year's celebration marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the museum as an educational and cultural centerpiece of the Berkshires. The museum is honoring the legacy of Joyce Scheffey and the late Lew Scheffey for their founding membership and cornerstone support of the Bidwell House throughout its first quarter century.

The theme of the party is "Hats Off to the 25th." The Easy Ridin' Papas—Will Conklin on trumpet, cornet, vocals, and kazoo, and Adam Brown on parlor, archtop, and resonator guitars and vocals—will provide swinging music. Kate Baldwin is preparing delectable hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Guests will be treated to spectacular views of the southern Berkshires from the hilltop party site, part of the property of the landmark 1840s Federal-style Stone House. Both a live and silent auction will take place during the celebration, featuring fine art, collectibles, gourmet treats, and Berkshire experiences. Guests are invited to wear fun and vintage hats, and flat shoes are recommended given the outdoor location of the event.

The Bidwell House Museum, located on Art School Road, tells the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires and life on the frontier, the first English settlers, and the Native Americans, to the mid1800s. The Bidwell House first opened to the public in spring 1990. The property was the home of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, first pastor, from 1750 to 1784. Today, the Bidwell House and its surrounding 192 acres serves as a premier example of early American home life and as a museum endowed with an extensive collection of period furnishings and decorative arts, as well as gardens, fields, stone walls, and forested trails.

The summer garden party is the major fundraising event of the year for the museum, supporting the historic 1700s homestead, educational programs, and the grounds, which are open to the community year-round.

Tickets to the twenty-fifth anniversary party are $75 per person before August 7, $85 at the door, and may be reserved by contacting the museum office at 528-6888. Or feel free to visit the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org. Parking and the entrance to the party is from the lot behind the Veterans' Memorial at the corner of Blue Hill Road and Route 23 in Monterey.

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director

New England Cottontails
Habitat Management Walks

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Service Forestry are leading walks at two habitat management projects. One will be hosted by Chad Pease and the other by Charlie Sheets, two landowners who have done habitat management on their properties. Join us to see these conservation efforts and learn what you can do to become involved. Of the fewer than ten locations in southern Berkshire County where New England cottontail are known to live, two are in Monterey, on Corashire Road and at the Lake Buel boat launch.

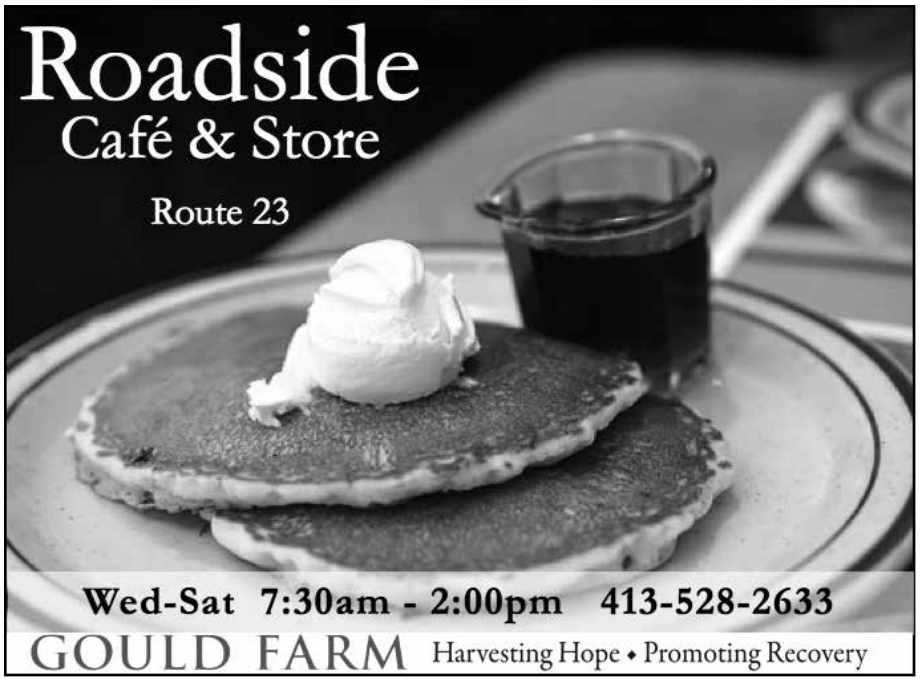
Discussion topics will include the New England cottontail conservation strategy and planning, funding, and permitting habitat projects. Be prepared for a short walk on level but uneven and muddy terrain. Contact Marianne Piché at 508-389-6313 or via email at marianne.piche@state.ma.us for more details.

New England cottontail habitat management walks:

Friday, August 21: at 228 Sandisfield Road (Route 57), Sandisfield, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Monday, August 24: Main Rd. (0.1 miles east of Sheets Rd.), Granville, MA, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

MaryPaul Yates



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Fourteenth Annual FLG quiz
What the Heck is FLG?

1. FLG is?

a. A radical group dedicated to repeal the federal law that prohibits swimming for at least thirty minutes after eating.

b. Frente de Libertacão da Guiné, a political party of Portuguese Guinea.

c. Friends of Lake Garfield—a tireless collection of community-minded folks, deeply dedicated to the preservation and protection of glorious Lake Garfield for all to enjoy. Visit the website for news and membership info Become a friend at lakegarfieldma.org or call 528-9090 (after 9:30 a.m.) More than ever, Lake Garfield needs all the friends it can get.

d. Falun Gong, a Chinese qigong practice that combines meditation and qigong exercises with a moral philosophy centered on the tenets of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance.

2. What is *Myriophyllum spicatum*?

a. The newest rock band from Greece.

b. The scientific name for ratatouille.

c. I don't know and I don't care.

d. The dreaded Eurasian milfoil, the crazily invasive weed that has recently invaded Lake Garfield. But fear not. FLG is already in action to stem the spread and eradicate the milfoil. With the help of our lake scientist, Ken Wagner, we will win this war. We have a relentless five-year plan that will cost $50,000. The town is pitching in $15,000. FLG has $10,000 in reserves. And we're asking the community to help out as well. You can send donations to FLG, Box 355, Monterey, MA 01245.

3. Why is it important to remember August 22?

a. 1992: Hurricane Andrew strikes the Bahamas and two days later makes landfall in South Florida.

b. 1902: Cadillac started in Detroit.

c. 2015: The best MontereyFest ever! Put a reminder on your fridge. And while you're at it, jot down the dates of the FLG open meetings on Sunday, July 5, and Saturday, August 8. We meet on the beach (or the fire house if it's rainy) at 9:30 a.m. Let your voice be heard and get the scoop on all the latest lake news.

d. All of the above, most especially *c*.

4. What is *Myriophyllum spicatum*? And didn't we already do this one? Yes, we did. Then, why twice?

s. We wanted to see if you were paying attention.

q. We wanted to remind you to donate.

z. We wanted to remind you to donate.

a. We wanted to remind you to donate.

d. All of the above.

Once again, this quiz can be blamed on
— Hy Rosen

Answers: 1-b,c, & d; 2-d, 3-c & d, 4-d.

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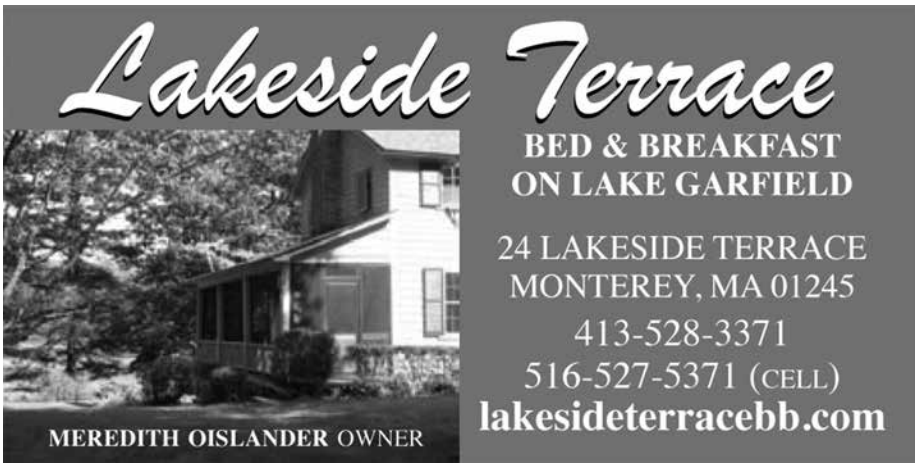

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From the Meetinghouse

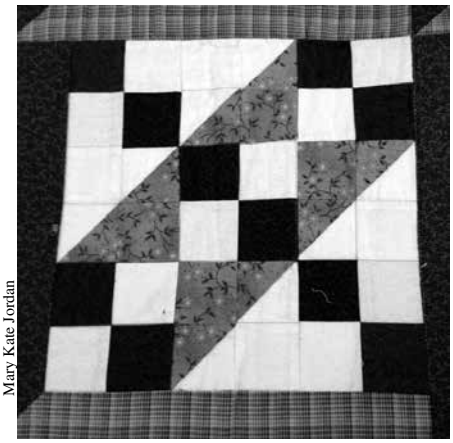
Jacob's Ladder and the Underground Railroad

The image called to mind by the phrase *Jacob's ladder* needs no factual explanation, which is good because there isn't one. A reference from the book of Genesis, it's become a watchword for inner vision so compassionate, expansive, and powerful it makes a change in the way the 'see-er' lives his life.

In the quilting world, Jacob's Ladder also goes by the name Underground Railroad. During the Civil War era, it was known, though only in circles where knowing it mattered, that seeing this quilt block on a quilt hanging out in the sun was a clue that this house was part of the Underground Railroad to the far north, to safety.

Underground railroads have also appeared, as needed, in other times, other places. Example? During the British dominance of Ireland; throughout Europe in the 1940s; in the struggles of the Boat People during the Vietnam War era; and elsewhere still today. More examples? The current exchange between coyotes and the folks who pay them to keep their promises of safe passage north to the US. The various "railroads" designed to aid women and men caught in, for one thing, the sex trade.

Maybe someday we won't need underground railroads any more. That means



Mary Kate Jordan

This quilt block goes by both names: Jacob's Ladder and Underground Railroad.

we do something hard: face our unwitting but real participation in the fears, suffering, and destruction of other lives. Of others' lives. Someday we may not need to read nonverbal code, even the hidden meaning in a quilt square, to be safe. Or maybe, one by one, we'll start to read the nonverbal code of our shared humanity.

Black Americans taught me to believe that. Black Americans from South Carolina. You remember. They're the people who, when recently invited to a race war, refused to show up.

But right now? We still need some experience with Jacob's Ladder to get there. At least, I do.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Contribution in July 2015

While most of the articles in the *Monterey News* are freely sent in, there are times when we ask someone to report on an event or topic that our readers should know about. Jacob Edelman's report on the Town Hall Structure committee (page 8) is an example. We would not be able to do this kind of reporting without the regular and strong support of our readers.

Donald Victor
Arthur and Joan Wing
Dave and Jody Soules
Diana Deacon and Walter Rittor
Michael Zisser and Marsha Morton
Bob and Muriel Lazzarini
Roy Gottlieb
Susie Crofut and Ben Luxon
Charles and Marylou Adams
Jane Walsh and Kraig Peterson
Andrew Somers, Jr.
Edwin Salsitz
Marilyn and Stanley Rossier
Allan & Kathryn Klingenstein
Kathy and Barry Karson
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Wildlife Report
Mid-June to Mid-July

This month folks have been seeing otters, bears, box-nesting birds, foxes, and more. On Hupi Road, Karl Finger was worried about his two young cats because he'd been hearing and seeing foxes. One even gave chase to a cat, who seemed little concerned. Karl is guessing these foxes and cats are tolerant neighbors, and I have since read accounts of cats unperturbed by foxes, even chasing the foxes.

Through the woods, Mike Skagerlind on Mount Hunger Road has been keeping a lookout for the beavers in his pond, who seemed to have decamped. His watching was rewarded by the sight of three otters gamboling in the water, and I walked over from here and saw a beaver there, too. In mid-June, Mike saw a large bold fox at his place.

Carol Ban reports seeing a bear by Otis Ridge on the Fourth of July, right at noontime. Robin Fried and Paul Epstein saw two cubs cross Route 23. They felt the cubs to be about forty or fifty pounds. George Emmons tells me that some men doing clearing work at Rod Palmer's place saw a mother bear with three cubs. They say the mother was limping. Also over at Rod's, there has been a coyote, and a doe with a fawn.

Stephanie Jaffe on Hupi Road sees a red fox regularly, also a doe with two fawns, and Sharon Rosenberg wrote of a rose-breasted grosbeak at her feeder in mid-July.

Early in July, Kenn Basler heard a raccoon racketing on the porch for much of the night, trying to get into the birdseed can. Success at last, but only a few seeds in the bottom, after all that work. Kenn got the photo of disappointment on the face of the raccoon.

Steve Moore and other walkers along New Marlboro Road report two big basswood trees covered with blossoms, also hundreds of noisy bumblebees. By the time I went to look, the flowers were past and the bees had moved on.

Ray Coddington sent a photo of a small porcupine from mid-July, who walked into his barn (see page 3).

Noel Wicke sent several indoor shots from her bluebird houses. One does contain bluebirds and eggs, and another chickadees, and the third wrens. This box was recently hung and almost immediately occupied.

Here in our house, the long-bodied cellar spiders are thriving, and we did have a blessed event yesterday along the living room ceiling: a female spider with twenty-five little ones, casting tiny shadows up against the white ceiling. These spiders catch and wrap ladybugs, among other things.

Thank you for all your sightings, your calls and photos.

—Bonner McAllester
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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, August 3 and 17, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, August 11, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesdays, August 12 and 26, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, August 13, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Park Commission: Wednesday, August 5, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, August 13 and 27, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

The board would like to remind everyone that we welcome all comments, suggestions, and complaints; however, we cannot give credibility to and act upon items that are submitted to us anonymously. If you have something you feel deserves the board's attention and would prefer not to present it at a meeting publically, for the month of August we will have one select board member (Steve Weisz) available in the office on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may stop in and visit personally or call 528-1443 and speak with Steve on the phone. If the day and time are not convenient for you, please call administrative assistant Melissa Noe at 528-1443 x111 to schedule a more convenient time. We also welcome any signed letters, which can be mailed to PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or via email to one or all of the addresses below.

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
www.montereyma.gov

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Administrative Assistant:
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Assessor: 528-1443 x115
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Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball. Batting practice at 10, games 10:30, Greene Park.

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings, 4:15 p.m.

During August: Artist Sara Markel-Altman will be displaying her artwork at the Otis Library and Museum.

Every Saturday in August: Our Lady of the Hills Chapel, mass at 7 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Until Saturday, August 8: *clay.light. tea,* Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 14.

Saturday, August 8:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 a.m., town beach.

Select board meeting with second-home owners, 10 a.m. at town hall.

Bidwell Museum History Talk—Author David M. Powers on William Pynchon, founder of Springfield, MA. 10 a.m. Tyringham Union Church, Main Road., Tyringham. $15, members $10. See p.21.

Monterey Library program, Jim Snack, magician,10:30 a.m.

Friday, August 14: Opening for *Aftermath*, artwork by Mariam Stephans. Artist talk at 6, reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. See p. 14. This exhibition runs through September 26.

Saturday, August 15:

CET hazardous waste mini-collection, 8:30 to 11:30, Great Barrington recycling center. Go to cetonline.org, click under "Green for Homes" for more info.

Monterey Library program, John Porcino, singer and storyteller. 10:30 a.m. Rescheduled from August 1.

Bidwell House Museum 25th anniversary party, 4 to 7 p.m. See pps. 16 and 22.

Blues musician and singer Robin O'Herin, 7:30 p.m., Knox Trail Inn, East Otis. Dinner at 6 by reservation, call 269-4008. Sponsored by Otis Cultural Council.

Lenox Contra Dance, live music by Spare Parts—Liz Stell flute, Eric Buddington fiddle, Bill Matthiesen keyboard, Mark Murphy bass. 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Lenox-ContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Monday, August 17: Author Bernie Drew will share stories from his book, *Literary Luminaries of the Berkshires*, focussing on authors with Monterey connections. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monterey Library. See p.10, or go to the library's new website, montereymasslibrary.org, for info.

Tuesday, August 18: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Thursday, August 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Saturday, August 22:

Outdoor Yoga with Alex Tinari, 9 a.m., Monterey Community Center. See p. 19.

Berkshire Hatchery Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

MontereyFest, beginning at 2 p.m., town beach. See p. 16.

Sunday, August 23: Lobsterfest at Berkshire Hatchery, 2 p.m. See p. 17.

Monday, August 24: Adult book group will discuss *Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky. This is a memoir by the founder of the Yiddish Book Museum which is on the campus of Hampshire College. 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Wednesday, August 26:

Chesterwood tour, Council on Aging, 11 a.m. See p. 9.

Otis Library, 7 p.m. Author Sheila Weller will discuss her book, *The Good News Sorority.*

Saturday, August 29: Bidwell Museum history talk—author Bernie Drew will talk about his new book, *18th & 19th Century Waterpowered Industry in the Upper Housatonic River Valley,* at 10 a.m. at Monterey Town Hall. $15, members $10. See p.21.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

September 12: Berkshire Hatchery Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

September 24: Possible Council on Aging trip on the Erie Canal. See p. 9.

October 3: Health Fair, Monterey Fire House.

Liz Goodman

For raffle tickets for the Bluebird Garden quilt to support the Meetinghouse restoration fund, call the church at 528-5850 or email liz@goodman.md

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Town Reporter.....Jacob Edelman
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 7, George Emmons, p. 17;
Bonner McAllester, p. 18; Kit Patten, p. 19.

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